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the book are those containing citations from legal decisions in the various states, in which particular Dr. Urdahl has made a real contribution to his subject, while the chief defect of the thesis is its too great comprehensiveness, in tracing the history of fees from the early days of Greece and Rome, down through the Middle Ages. The fee begins to appear in a strange light when we are told that the *sacramentum* in the *actio sacramenti* was a fee, and still stranger is the statement that *wergeld* was a fee.

There are a few slips of the pen, as where the writer speaks of the "Massachusetts Bay Colony" in 1798 (p. 105); and there are also some typographical errors. A bibliography is added, but unfortunately no index, for which the table of contents is no adequate substitute.

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IN HIS "History of American Coinage,"\* Mr. David K. Watson has given a clear account of our monetary legislation. He has made a careful study of the laws and public documents relating to coinage, and has presented the results of his study in a straightforward, readable narrative. For those who are unfamiliar with the subject, and are unaccustomed to the often-times dreary study of public documents, the work will serve a useful purpose. The author disclaims any aim at comprehensiveness, and does not often go back of the laws to discover the motives which lay behind them. He confines his attention to coinage exclusively, and the reader gets no hint of the subsidiary place which, until recent years, it has occupied in our currency, or even of its relation in earlier times to bank issues and paper money.

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#### REVIEWS.

*European History: An Outline of its Development.* By GEORGE BURTON ADAMS, Professor of History in Yale University. Pp. xxviii, 377. Price, \$1.40. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

The historical text-book of to-day is entering a new stage in its development, at least so far as the United States is concerned. It can no longer be a compilation only of facts and statements, a mere retailer of information, a condensed account of a nation's history. It must become a working instrument, a handbook not only of facts but of references and suggestions, a guide to further knowledge, a stimulus to the student to get beyond the bounds of its pages and to launch out into the larger world of standard works, special treatises and original

\* *History of American Coinage.* By DAVID K. WATSON. Pp. 278. New York and London: Putnams, 1899.

authorities. It aims not to make the pupil a cyclopædia of information but a self-reliant scholar, knowing where and how to get more facts if he wants them, willing to take a suggestion and eager to follow it up. The idea of the modern text-book in the United States is very different from that which underlay the more antiquated and dull but still extant variety, where the Advanced History followed the Short History and the Short History followed the Elementary History, and the three differed in no way save in the number of pages and amount of detail.

Professor Adams has written what must be considered one of the best text-books of its kind, and the most serviceable handbook of general history that has thus far seen the light. This is not due entirely to the fact that it is rich in bibliography, reference and suggestion. It is because Professor Adams has given us a text that is no compilation from others, but is in all parts the author's own. The work is characterized by a freshness in the point of view that is quite unusual in a text-book, as, *e. g.*, the author's views on Anglo-Saxon expansion and the growth of world politics (Part VII, Chapter VII).

The work opens with a chapter on primitive Europe and the Orient and follows the successive stages in the development of European civilization to the present time. There are also supplemental chapters on the growth of the English and American constitutions and on scientific and economic advance since the Renaissance. A general list of books for the teacher and shorter lists for both teacher and pupil are placed at the beginning of each chapter. There are also marginal references on every page to a few of the best accessible standard authorities, to collections of sources and to novels, and brief but suggestive summaries of a general character are given at the beginning of each of the seven parts into which the book is divided. At the end of each chapter the author has placed topics for assigned study and for review, together with brief bibliographies of a few special subjects. Numerous maps, charts, tables and illustrations accompany the text.

Professor Adams intends the book for college students, and for these it will be indeed admirable, as well as for others of the same degree of advancement. The college teacher will welcome the book as an efficient ally in the work of interesting his students in the subject.

But Professor Adams leaves the problem of the secondary or preparatory school still unsolved, and so, it must be confessed, have also Professor Channing and Dr. Botsford, who with Professor Adams have produced the very best text-books of the kind mentioned above. The complaint of the teacher seems to be that the text is in each of these cases too difficult for the comprehension of the average pupil between fourteen and seventeen years of age. Can this be remedied and can

the preparatory student receive the benefit of the new and more enlightened method adopted in these works? This is an important question to answer now that publishers are aiming to meet the recommendations of the Committee of Seven and are urging historical scholars to undertake the preparation of new text-books. Such text-books must appear in a much more simple form, with more narrative, more dates, and more of the picturesque in combination with the evolutionary than is true of Professor Adams' work.

There are a few errors in the work and some statements that seem open to criticism. It is not strictly true to say that Calvin took up his residence at Geneva in 1536 and there spent the remainder of his life (p. 319). In view of the obscurity that surrounds the subject, it is perhaps not best to charge Ferdinand II. with having Wallenstein killed (p. 352); it seems more reasonable to suppose that Wallenstein stands to Ferdinand II. much as Thomas à Becket stands to Henry II. On page 454, Professor Adams has seemingly confused the triple agreement known as the Holy Alliance with the quadruple treaty of November 20, 1815, and his brevity is, in the paragraph in question, not only confusing but misleading. On page 472 he calls the Delegations in Austria-Hungary "a kind of federal legislature;" how can that be a legislature that makes no laws? On page 470, the author is quite wrong in saying that it was the vote in the Federal Diet on Bismarck's proposal to revise the Germanic constitution that decided Prussia for war; that proposal was, in fact, never brought to a vote in the Diet. In the maps there are a number of mistakes in names. The index and the table of contents are excellent.

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*Municipal Monopolies.* By EDWARD W. BEMIS, JOHN R. COMMONS, FRANK PARSONS, M. N. BAKER, F. A. C. PERRINE, MAX WEST. One vol., 691 pp., appendices and index. Cloth, \$2.00. (Vol. xvi. Crowell's Library of Economics and Politics.)

To judge from the recent literature on city affairs, one would infer that the municipal problem has resolved itself into a question of the proper adjustment of relations between public service corporations and the public authority. Nor would this inference be very far from the truth. In every one of the larger cities of the United States this question seems to be the only one upon which it is possible to concentrate public interest. At every conference of the National Municipal League, the League of American Municipalities and other civic organizations, the rules which should regulate the granting of franchises occupy an important place in the discussions.